Shock Value: The East Coast Earthquake

Something “shook” up the news on August 23, 2011, a rare east coast earthquake that measured up to 5.8 on the Richter scale. People were taken by surprise considering there are so few earthquakes on this side of the Mississippi. The city of Charlotte was also affected.

The greatest damage caused by this so-called “natural disaster” was a few broken plates and maybe a broken lampshade that fell off the coffee table. Although, the “devastating” earthquake did cause quite the disturbance on the golf course, causing golfer’s putts to break and extra five feet for almost six horrifying seconds.

If you are a member of any of the popular social networks, i.e. facebook or twitter, you were made aware of the earthquake within seconds. Although there were over 100 facebook posts regarding the quake in a little over a minute, all 10 million + members made it there mission to be a hero and alert all their friends.

The town most affected by the quake was our nation’s capital, Washington D.C. While president Obama is running out of excuses for the country’s struggling economy, there is reason to believe the earthquake will be the next thing he blames. Effects of the quake were also felt in upstate New York and New York City. There was little panic though because the shifting of a tectonic plate directly below Wall Street was the only way the Stock Market could have crashed any more.

The earthquake also surprised many students at Charlotte Catholic. One student, junior class member Meagan Burelli, said she “had no idea what was going on” and she “thought someone was breaking in to her house.” That is an interesting thought, although there are few home security systems that rumble the entire household when it is being breached. Though earthquakes are very rare around North Carolina there may have been an excessive amount of panic by students for such a minor event.

Instead of going straight to facebook or twitter, students should have been praying for a more intense aftershock with a chance that the first day of school may have been delayed. Or maybe it was not an earthquake at all, but a failed attempt by a very powerful person to extend summer for a few weeks, but it is doubtful. Even though the quake may have caused damage to some, it proved to be a valuable conversation starter on the first day of school.